

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

See You At the Pole heavily attended

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

In the early morning sunlight of September 17, approximately 80 students at Rod Paige Middle School in Monticello braved the chill to join with millions of other students from coast to coast and around the world in a prayer experience known as See You at the Pole (SYATP).

Joining hands, the students — oblivious to the traffic on Highway 84 and the comings and goings of school buses and parents dropping off other students — prayed for their school, their classmates, teachers, and their country and world.

Last year's event drew more than 2.5 million teens in all 50 states. SYATP events were held on six continents in 2002, and a quick perusal of pertinent websites show photos from Europe, Australia, and around the world.

According to the National Network of Youth Ministries' website, millions of Christian young people at middle, junior and senior high schools, as well as elementary schools and colleges, were joined by their peers in at least 16 other countries who sought to be "consumed" by the power of God.

Consumed was the 2003 SYATP theme, taken from the biblical account of Elijah's encounter with the

Prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18:36-39. For many, the encounter with God was overwhelming. A teenager at Walnut Grove Secondary School in Langley, British Columbia reported, "Once we got praying, the Spirit of God was so evident, I could barely pray because I was just weeping for my school; for my friends; and begging God to come and move in a mighty way."

According to interviews with Billy Beacham of Student Discipleship Ministries, and Church Flowers of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in the late 1990's, the SYATP phenomenon began with a group of Texas students.

The students, meeting in a private home in a Dallas suburb during a DiscipleNow weekend in the spring of 1990, decided to go to three local schools and one home where one of them was being home schooled and pray for their fellow students and administration late one evening. The next week, a group of youth workers in

Dallas met to pray and discuss how to challenge their young people to make a difference for Christ.

Someone shared about the Disciple Now prayer event. "Why not challenge Christian students everywhere to gather on their campuses to pray?" someone asked. On June 22, 1990, at a conference in Dallas, 20,000 students were challenged to meet at their school flagpoles and pray. On September 12, 1990, 45,000 students prayed on 1,200 campuses in four states. The movement has grown to the point that it has become the largest single prayer event on the planet.

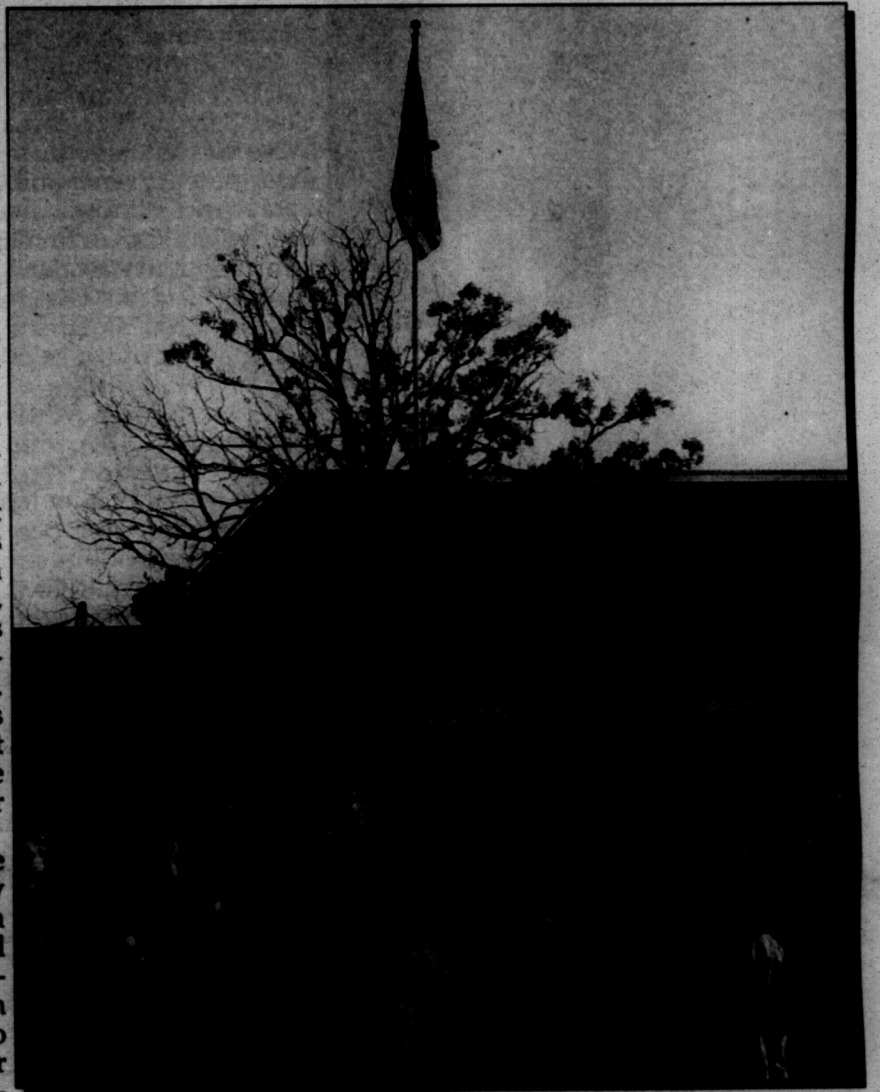
On the Rod Paige campus, SYATP grew out of momentum begun with the arrival of First Priority, a campus based Christian club, according to David Caves, minister of students and outreach at Bethel Church, Monticello. "Students have really stepped up," said Caves. "There are about 40 kids active

in the club here, and they're running in the 50s over at Lawrence County High School."

Daniel Smith, an eighth grader at Paige, said, "I'm just here to pray. I come every year. I pray for folks who are lost and don't know Jesus. There's just a lot of cussing and stuff that goes on here, and we need to pray for each other. I'll pray at the pole again next year."

Similar stories were reported around the country. "It's a chance to step up and be an example for your peers," said Sara Allen, a senior at Burns High School in Shelby, N.C. The Baptist Press story continued by quoting Joshua Ensey, a senior at Periman High School in Odessa, Tex. "It's good that even the people just driving by can see what's going on," said Joshua. "They may become curious and ask what's happening, and they'll see Christians standing together."

What accounts for the continued success of SYATP? "It's a concentrated effort across the nation and world to pray specifically for our schools, students, and faculty," said Don Lum, adult/youth consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "Prayer makes a difference in people's lives. School impacts everyone in some way. We just believe prayer works."



MORNING LIGHT — In the early morning hours of September 17, approximately 80 students at Rod Paige Middle School in Monticello encircle the campus flagpole to pray for their school during the annual See You at the Pole prayer event. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

BLUE MOUNTAIN IN PRAYER — Blue Mountain College students, faculty, and staff gathered around the campus flagpole to pray for their school, families, communities, and government leaders. The special event was held in conjunction with national observance of See You At The Pole. The Baptist-affiliated college is located in Blue Mountain. (Special to The Baptist Record)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Letters to the editor

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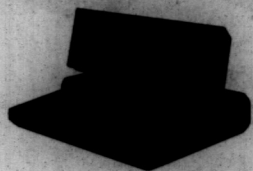
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to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box
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changes to The Editor, BAPTIST
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Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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A great harvest of righteousness

Words have power. Many people don't believe that simple fact, but it's true. With words, Jesus Christ revolutionized the practice of religion. With words, Martin Luther revolutionized the practice of Christianity. With words, Mohandas Gandhi sought peace. With words, Adolf Hitler set the world aflame. Words have power.

In our day, we have seen (or heard, rather) words uprooted from their original meanings to serve political and social purposes. "Gay" comes quickly to mind as a prime example. Other words are not even words but rather diabolical inventions pulled from thin air to further a cause; try looking up the word "homophobe" in an old dictionary.

We throw around terms like "racist," "liar," "freedom," and even "love" in such a casual way that such words have essentially lost their potency and ability to motivate us. Almost every vulgar expression known to man is packed into a modern American movie. The name of God and His Only Begotten Son are used as curses these days just about as much as praise.

What a sad state of affairs. To read the stirring words of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln is to know that words have the power to inspire an entire people to reach for the highest ideals of humanity.

Unfortunately, listening to the words of many of today's leaders can only make one wonder how low humankind can go — and that's especially true during an election cycle. Between now and next fall's presidential election, look for the problem to reach nauseating new levels of offense.

Christians must be exceedingly careful not to fall in the devilish trap of abusive language. Southern Baptists have said some pretty distasteful things about each other over the years, and some

comments overheard at Mississippi Baptist meetings are just as bad.

"I'm just speaking the truth," is the oft-heard retort, but it's not the truth spoken in love.

Comes now David Currie, an outspoken Texas Baptist who describes himself as a moderate and who has made it exceedingly clear that he cannot live with the current Southern Baptist Convention leadership or the direction in which they have led the convention for the past 24 years.

That's okay. Currie is entitled to his opinion, but he stepped over the line in late June when he greeted the election of Paige Patterson as the new president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth by describing him as a "well-meaning theological pervert," "asinine," and "ignorant."

At least a pair of obvious conclusions can be drawn: Currie doesn't like Patterson, a former SBC president and former president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and he is not going to support Patterson's tenure as president of Southwestern Seminary.

Even that is okay. The Southern Baptist Convention is a big place and there's bound to be differences of opinion, but the resort to high insult and low blows is not appropriate in any circumstance.

Currie is certainly not alone in Baptist circles, not by a long shot. Character assassins like Currie, all up and down the political spectrum, have been active over the years, opening their mouths before their brains were engaged.

**"I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE
CURRENT SBC CONFLICT—
PREVIOUSLY, WE HAD TO
BLAME OUR FAILURES
ON COMPLACENCY AND
SIN!"**



We would all do well to humble ourselves, and study James 3. Certainly we should focus on the last verse in that chapter: *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

As we approach the Mississippi Baptist Convention's 2003 session in a few short weeks — and all year round, for that matter — let us work to raise a great harvest of righteousness in Mississippi by being peacemakers, turning our backs on the ways of the world and the misuse of the power of words.

As a lost world waits and watches, surely our Lord expects no less from the people who call themselves by His Holy Name.

GUEST OPINION:



My mission field!

By Betty Davis, president
Mississippi Women's Missionary Union

Learned the joy of giving when I was very young. As a preschooler, I took my offering to church tied in the corner of a pretty cloth handkerchief. I knew it didn't belong to me. I was to put my coins in the offering plate as it passed by me.

As a child, I became a Girls in Action (GA) member, and I learned to give an offering to help missionaries in America and overseas tell others about Jesus. As a teenager, I was proud that my offering ministered to people who had lost everything in a hurricane on the coast.

As an adult, I heard of other state ministries of which I could be a part by giving each September to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

Giving is a blessing. Acts 20:35 says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Using an acrostic for state missions, I see how my money helps people all over Mississippi:

S — Summer camps at Camp Garaywa in Clinton and Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko provide opportunities for children and youth to make a lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ. I'm glad my granddaughters attended GA camp at Garaywa. Over 90% of adults in missions related voca-

tions say that they first felt a call from the Lord while they attended preschool, children, and youth mission organizations provided by Woman's Missionary Union.

T — Time is valuable, and many Mississippians use their gifts and skills to share the Gospel as short-term mission volunteers.

A — Associational churches receive funds to reach out to people in their communities with special mission projects.

T — The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering is a wonderful way for us to share our money for ministries in our own state! I'm sad to know that half of our Mississippi churches don't give anything to state missions.

E — Ethnic, language, and culture groups benefit, by receiving encouragement and leadership training skills.

M — Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering helps mission volunteers to partner with others states. What a wonderful opportunity!

I — Inmates in jails and prisons and their families receive encouragement through Bible studies and the presentation of the Gospel.

S — Student interns in Mississippi universities receive financial support from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering for work with internationals on their campuses.

S — Self-sufficiency is encouraged by mentors in the Christian Women's Job Corps. Many women have been helped to become Christians, find a good job, and later help other women they know to succeed as well.

I — Instant relief is available for disaster victims. My family

benefited from this allotment in 1987 when a tornado touched our home, church, and the Glade community in Jones County.

O — Offering support from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering provides certified leaders for classes such as English as a Second Language, Adult Reading and Writing, and Tutoring Children and Youth.

N — New strategic church plants help evangelize the over 57% of unchurched people in Mississippi. Places being used to begin new churches include a large bookstore, a funeral home, store fronts, and a restaurant.

S — Some pastors and their families have "extreme needs" and we can provide financial love in action by giving generously to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. I've heard that the thank you cards are heart warming.

I love the state mission programs that inform me of all the ways my money is being used. The offerings we give together help in more ways that I could have ever helped with just my offering. I've discovered the joy of giving to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. Won't you give generously?

Truly, Mississippi is my mission field!

Slain missionary's wife going to Philippines

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Lyn Hyde is hoping Southern Baptists will remember her in prayer on Oct. 22. As a Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines for 25 years, she has known the power of their collective prayers on her birthday when her name is included on a missionary prayer list.

A much different circumstance now prompts her call for prayer. Seven months after her husband Bill was killed by a terrorist's bomb on the island of Mindanao, she'll return to the Davao City airport where the March 4 explosion took place, killing 43 Filipinos and injuring another 136 people.

"There is only one airport that I will fly back into and I will walk through the place where Bill was killed," Hyde told International Mission Board (IMB) trustees during their Sept. 10 meeting in Austin, Texas. "I'll go back to our duplex where we lived, where Bill will not be, but his things will be."

LISTENING TO GOD

Over the three weeks of her visit, Hyde said she will seek to "hear from the Lord, continue the grieving process and try to determine what God is saying to me for my future."

She expressed gratitude for the IMB providing a full year in which to make a decision about returning to the Philippines as a missionary. She also asked for continued prayer for her sons who, though ages 31 and 32, are deeply grieving the loss of their father.

"As God continues to bring good to our lives, we can

count on Him doing that for us," she said.

Since the death of her husband of 37 years, God's comforting presence has been profoundly real, Hyde said, quoting Isaiah 54:5. She said she was experiencing the reality of that Scripture: "My maker is my husband, the Lord Almighty is His name."

Hyde has been living in Argyle, Texas and attending Prestonwood Church in Plano. One son, Tim, is a contractor in nearby McKinney. Another son, Steve, leads a missions organization in Southeast Asia.

GOD STILL HAS A PLAN

Hyde is convinced of her God still has a missionary purpose for her life: In 25 years of missionary service, March 4 was the only time she had not stood next to her husband while waiting to pick up fellow missionaries at the airport.

"When the bomb exploded that killed my husband, it was as if my life was blown up into a thousand pieces like a jigsaw puzzle," she shared. "In the hours and the days that I've spent with the Lord since that time, the Lord is slowly beginning to turn over the pieces of that puzzle."

Though the bombing took her husband's life, it did not kill her missionary calling, Hyde said. "From the time I was 7 years old when I came to know the Lord, and from the time I met my first real-life missionary, all I ever

wanted to be was a missionary," she said. "Even though Bill is gone from me, that call has not gone away."

NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

Because of the death of her husband and the three Southern Baptist hospital workers killed in Yemen three months earlier, Southern Baptists can no longer go about mission work as usual, Hyde said. "This is not an isolated incident. We need to see the larger picture taking place around the world," she said. "The cost for each one of us and the cost for the IMB is going to be far greater."

While some questioned their decision when they began serving as missionaries in 1978, the reason they went was simple obedience to God's call, Hyde said. "The reason Bill and I went to the Philippines is that the Great Commission has not yet been fully obeyed," she told the trustees. "We are called to follow Christ and to lay down our lives for the cause of Christ.

"Bill paid the ultimate price for his commitment to Christ. He died for the cause of Christ."

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as many other millions have died before him," she said. "I do have the joy and the comfort in knowing his life was not wasted. He lived for eternity."

She quoted martyred missionary Jim Elliott who wrote, "He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain which he cannot lose."

Just as Elliott's wife Elisabeth continued serving in the country where her husband's life was taken, Lyn Hyde returns to the Philippines Oct. 22 to seek God's will about continued service among the people she's loved for 25 years.

Hear Lyn Hyde's testimony
— Low-speed connection: http://rodan.implex.net/alliedvaughn/1MB/trustees/hyde_low.wma.
High-speed connection http://rodan.implex.net/alliedvaughn/1MB/trustees/hyde_high.wma



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PRAYERS FOR JOURNEY — Lyn Hyde (center) whose missionary husband Bill was killed March 4 in a terrorist bombing in the Philippines, is the focus of prayer after sharing her testimony Sept. 10 with trustees of the International Mission Board during their meeting in Austin, Texas. Hyde plans on returning to the scene of her husband's death at the Davao City airport. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

Looking back

10 years ago

Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian hosts the birth of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Anti-gambling forces from across the country gather at the invitation of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

20 years ago

Southern Baptists from 11 states initiate plans to help stave off massive efforts to legalize betting, lotteries, and casino gambling in southern and southwestern states in 1984. "The house is on fire," said Foy Valentine, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

50 years ago

The Baptist Sunday School Board, under the direction of J. N. Barnette, secretary of the MBCB Sunday School Department, encourages churches to be a part of "A Million more in '54," a Sunday School growth campaign designed to bring about a net gain of one million people in Sunday Schools nationwide.

2003 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

OCTOBER 28-29 — FIRST CHURCH, JACKSON

LORD, MAKE US ONE ... IN MIND
Make my joy complete by being of the same mind

October 28, 2003 • Tuesday Morning, First Session

8:25	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC Jackson
8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Frank Pollard
8:35	Theme Chorus: "Make Us One, Lord"	Bill Herman
	Scripture Reading: John 17:21-22	Derek Lambert
	Prayer	Cathy Jeffcoats
8:45	Organization of the Convention	
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	Frank Pollard
	Recognition of Special Guests & Correspondence	Frank Pollard
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	Gordon Sansing
	Recognition of Tellers and Credentials Committee	Frank Pollard
	Welcome	Jim Baker
8:55	Congregational Praise	Larry Black
9:00	Bible Treasure	Waylon Bailey
9:25	Report of Committee on Committees	Daniel Hall
9:30	Presentation of Resolutions	
9:35	Election of the President	
10:00	Congregational Praise	
10:05	Christian Action Commission Report	
10:15	Baptist Children's Village Report	
10:25	Convention Board Report	
10:45	Congregational Praise	
10:55	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC, Jackson
11:10	President's Address: "Lord, Make Your People One"	Frank Pollard
		John 17:20-25
11:40	Benediction	Sammy Franklin

4:00	Congregational Praise	Aaron Tomes
4:05	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, Harrisburg, Tupelo
4:20	Convention Sermon: "These Things I Believe"	Forrest Sheffield
	Revelation 2:12-15	
4:50	Benediction	Ronney Joe Webb

LORD, MAKE US ONE ... IN SPIRIT
Make my joy complete by being of the same spirit

October 28, 2003 • Tuesday Evening, Third Session

6:30	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
6:40	Sounding of the Gavel	Frank Pollard
	Theme Chorus: "Make Us One, Lord"	Bill Herman
	Scripture Reading: John 17:23	Beth Cape
	Prayer	Jim Hess
6:50	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
	Presentation of Resolutions	
7:00	Missions Impact in Mississippi	Kiely Young
	"Because People Need the Lord"	
7:10	Bible Treasure	Waylon Bailey
7:20	Recognition of Special Guests, New Workers & Missionaries	Jim Futral
7:45	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
8:50	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
	Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Emphasis	Jim Futral
	Benediction	Tommy Quinn, Jr.

LORD, MAKE US ONE ... IN LOVE
Make my joy complete by being of the same love

October 28, 2003 • Tuesday Afternoon, Second Session

1:30	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC Jackson
1:35	Sounding of the Gavel	Frank Pollard
	Theme Chorus: "Make Us One, Lord"	Bill Herman
	Scripture Reading: John 17:26	Derek Lambert
	Prayer	Cathy Jeffcoats
1:45	Bible Treasure	Waylon Bailey
2:10	Results of Election of President (followed by second ballot if needed)	
2:15	Missions Impact in Mississippi "Mississippi WMU Celebrates 125 Years"	Ray Cassiory
2:20	Congregational Praise	Aaron Tomes
2:25	Message: "Power Tools"	David Lee
2:55	Business Session	
	Presentation of 2004 Budget	Bobby Kirk
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	Rick Courtney
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:25	Report of Board of Ministerial Education	Ronnie Falvey
3:30	Business Session	
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	Rick Courtney
	Miscellaneous Business	

MAKE US ONE ... IN PURPOSE
Make my joy complete by being of the same purpose

October 29, 2003 • Wednesday Morning, Fourth Session

8:25	Prelude	Blue Mountain College Chorale
8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Archie Herrin
8:35	Theme Chorus: "Make Us One, Lord"	Bill Herman
	Scripture Reading: John 17:18	James Sanders
	Prayer	George Mason
8:50	Bible Treasure	Waylon Bailey
9:10	Report of Education Commission	Stan Buckley
9:15	Memorial Service	Frank Harmon
9:25	Choral Praise	Blue Mountain College Chorale
9:30	Introduction of College Presidents	Frank Pollard
9:40	Blue Mountain College Report	Bettye R. Coward
9:50	Missions Impact in Mississippi "BSU - From the Campuses to the World"	
9:55	Business Session	Bill Hardin
	Adoption of 2004 Budget	Bobby Kirk
	Committee on Nominations Report	Gary Richardson
	Time, Place & Preacher Committee Report	Aubrey Boone
	Resolutions Committee Report	P.J. Scott
	Miscellaneous Business	
10:25	Congregational Praise	Jerri Lamar Kantack
10:30	Missions Mobilization	Ken Rhodes
10:40	Choral Praise	Blue Mountain College Chorale
10:45	Message	Rick Ousley
11:30	Benediction	Ricky Wheat

"Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love,
being one in spirit and purpose." *Philippians 2:2 (NIV)*

POOR SPUNKY

The other day my wife Shirley called me to ask where a piece of paper was. It was a piece of paper with some information on it that was very important and she had brought it to me, shown it to me, and laid it down on the table beside me. When she called wanting to know where it was, I said, "I do not know. You laid it down on the table after you showed it to me and as far as I know that is where it still is." She said, "No, it is not there and I was wondering if you did something with it." I replied, "No, I didn't and I do not know who did."

I backtracked over a couple of days to think through the events related to the incident and I was fairly confident that I really had not even touched the piece of paper after looking at it and placing it on the table. A few minutes passed and she called me back. She said, "I found it." I said, "Great! Where was it?" She replied, "In the trash." I asked, "How in the world did it get there?"

Now, at this point in the story it would be good if our kids were still at home. With two girls and a boy in our family, whose ages span about a decade, it seemed to always be somebody that was of the proper age and condition in life where it would be obvious that they probably did something with it. That is one of the side blessings of having children that you don't recognize until they are gone. You can generally blame one of them for whatever is broken or thrown in the trash. Since we have been in the "empty nest" phase of life for a few years, we may look at each other, but we don't blame the kids. Convinced that I had not put it in the trash, I wondered who was left. So, in response to the question, "How did it get in the trash?" Shirley said, "I guess Spunky put it there."

Spunky was among the best dogs, if not the best, that God ever put on the planet. He was a beautiful, miniature Dachshund who was my dear friend and family member for over 10 years. Spunky has been dead for almost as long as we had him. Now, years past his departure, he is getting blamed for moving a piece of paper!

I was reminded that blame is, was, and will continue to be a part of our human make-up. I don't believe dogs blame people and I don't believe chickens blame hogs. It's a human thing! It is probably one of the sad realities of who we are. You do not have to move far into the pages of the story of mankind until you see this dimension of who we are — blamers. There they are in a perfect garden, in a heaven on earth environment, and are disobeying God and blaming one another. Actually, Adam blamed God



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

for giving him that woman, the woman blamed God for the snake being there, and the blame game had begun.

I know an old pastor who quoted the following statement that he said was in the Bible, but actually it wasn't. He would say, "It is like the Bible says, every tub must sit on its own bottom." While that is not a Bible verse, it certainly is a Bible principle. Each of us must face up to the responsibility for our own actions. Now the thing about blame is that it is always so easy to do. Given the time and some creative thought process, you can always figure out why actions or reactions are caused by someone else and therefore shift the responsibility to those around you.

All of us prefer to justify our fears and magnify our successes. Our entire society and its structure are permeated with blame. The education system has it everywhere — parents blaming the teachers for their child not learning and the teachers pointing at the parents for not instilling in their child a sense of discipline and respect

for authority. Others in the system blame the government for not providing enough money for children to learn, and still others blame either the lack of good nutrition or the polluted environment for killing off brain cells in our kids. All of those things have validity, at least to some degree, but sometimes, not all the time, kids don't learn because they are just not applying themselves to the hard, intellectual world of grasping new material. When that is true, it usually stays with them for a lifetime and they usually always have somebody to blame.

Certainly, the church is not immune to blaming others for our faults and failures. When things are going great in church everybody kind of smiles and moves on, but when the tide flows out and some ill wind begins to blow you can hear the quiet murmurings — the preacher should have, or the staff ought to, or if the deacons would, or if more people attended, or there just seems to be a lack of concern, and on, and on. There is always a place to put your finger and say, "That's the problem."

While we look for a place to put the blame, to varying degrees or percentages all of us probably ought to just look in the mirror and say, "Here's a good place to start." Just think about it! Blame is a part of the struggle of our society. You can see it at work in the failure of big corporations or the closure of a mom and pop operation. You can see it when wars come or hurricanes blow. You can find it in every house, on every sports team, in every hospital, and on every news show. It is a part of our warped, sinful nature. I am convinced that one day when we stand before the Lord, He who sees everything so clearly will unravel all the blame and help us to see where we failed legitimately on our own because of our wrong decisions. He who knows how we think, understands our capabilities, and clearly sees our motives will be able to unravel every fault and failure and there will be no argument. While others will affect us in life and some circumstances will dictate decisions in life, for sure we will not stand before Him and argue, debate, or blame when it is our responsibility.

Romans 14:12 says, "So now every one of us must give an account of himself to God." Indeed we will and a lot of things will be cleared up and a lot of people and circumstances that got blamed will be rectified. Until that day all I can say is, "Poor old Spunky."

MBC cards being mailed to churches

Messenger cards for the 168th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 28-29 in Jackson will be mailed directly to churches during the week of October 6, according to the Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which each year distributes the cards.

Each church will receive the number of messenger cards for which eligibility has been determined according to the guidelines established in Article III of the Constitution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Membership information is based on the 2002 Annual Church Profile. For more information, contact the executive director-treasurer's office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: mbox@mbcb.org.

WCC enjoys third record enrollment period

WCC (Special) is up by 12% from last year for a total of 12,000 students. WCC's main campus in Hattiesburg, Miss., and its branches in Gulfport, Miss., and Natchez, Miss., are all enjoying a record enrollment in the spring semester.

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The School of Nursing achieved a pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) in 2003. "The commitment to excellence from the faculty, staff, and administration has influenced this growth in the nursing program," said Stewart. "The future looks very good."

Many Walters, WCC Student Government Association president and elementary education major from Natchez, said, "It is exciting for me to see the dramatic increase in enrollment this year. I believe a large part of this increase is due to the genuine concern and support of the faculty, staff, and administration. WCC provides students with a Christian atmosphere and an excellent opportunity for learning."

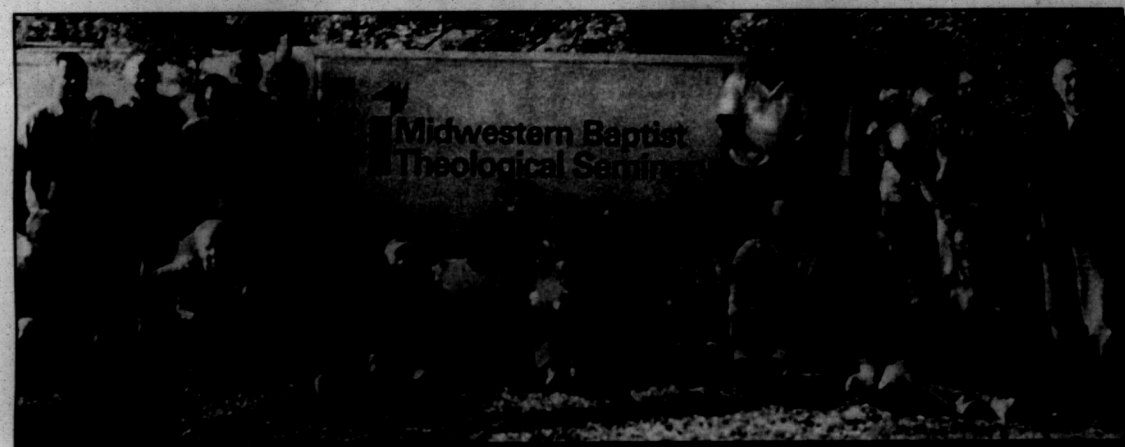
LaDonna Ferguson of Laurel, Miss., Carey 2003, said, "The increase in enrollment shows what a dynamic college WCC has become. It is a wonderful feeling to hear what people, even those who are not affiliated with the College, are saying about its outstanding attributes."

WCC is a four-year, private, co-educational, professional, and liberal arts college affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. WCC offers a choice of nationally recognized bachelor's and master's degree programs at a cost well below the national average for private colleges. Scholarships and other financial opportunities are available.

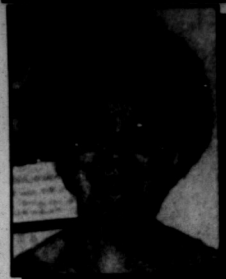
For more information, WCC can be contacted at 496 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Web site: www.wmcarey.edu.



Simpson County participants in Canada mission trip



Simpson County participants in Kansas mission trip



Rigdon

Edwina Robinson, and Wanda Lee. The play was entitled, My Missions Heritage.

Members of Simpson County churches, Eastside Church, First Church Mendenhall, Pine Grove Church, Pleasant Valley Church, and Strong River Church, journeyed to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to work with Royal Heights Church VBS as well as other activities. The mission team also worked with Gateway Church in park evan-

The GAs of Oak Grove Baptist Church gave a tea party for Nina Rigdon on August 9. The tea party raised half the cost for Rigdon's airplane ticket to go to the Ukraine. The GAs portrayed

Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, Margaret Lackey,

gelism, survey, and worship rallies. Members from First Church, Savage, Md., also partnered with the Simpson County team.

Volunteers from the churches of Simpson County, D'Lo Church, First Church, Mendenhall Church, Calvary Church, Braxton Church, Holly Grove Church, and Strong River Church, as well a guest couple from Lucedale, recently traveled to Kansas City, Mo. They worked on renovations of several properties at the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hailey Walker and Brian Sibley of the Liberty Church, Newton, youth department recently returned from their first time at Centrifuge. They were accompanied by Ron Walker and Joyce Johnson. Joey Lang is pastor.

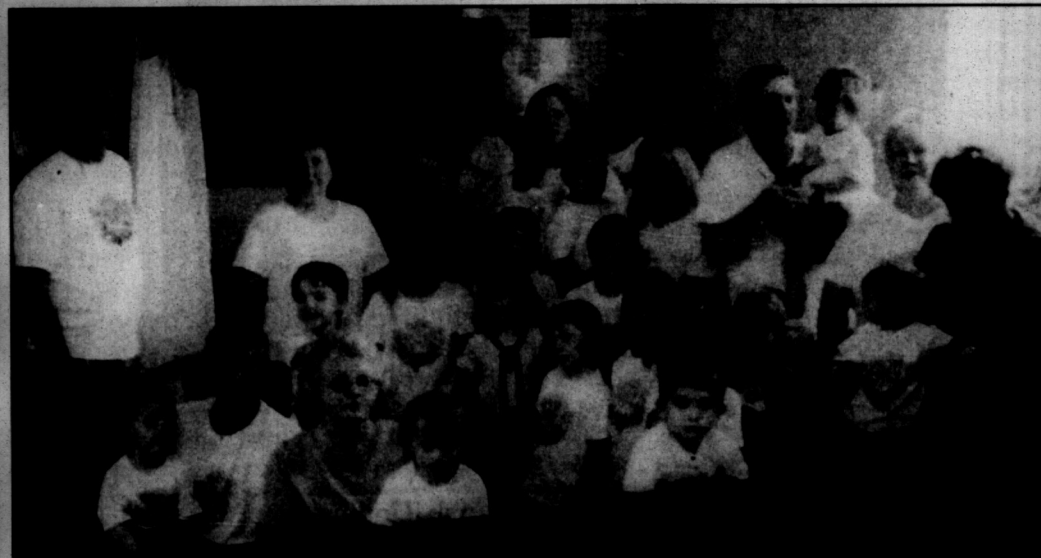
Holly Springs Church, Lincoln, held VBS on July 12-13, and 19-20. Thirty-three were enrolled with an average attendance of 30. The children and adults enjoyed learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. They



Brian Sibley and Hailey Walker

played with puppies, rode horses, and enjoyed hayrides. Glen McInnis is pastor.

Bethlehem Church, Forkville, commissioned four college/career age young people to go on mission with World Changers this summer. Stacie Phillipson, Stacie Stokley, Bobo Phillipson, and Ryan Merchant were ministering in Canton July 5-12.



Holly Springs Church, Lincoln VBS Participants

www.mbcbb.org



The Cottingham's

Join Ronnie & Beverly Cottingham for a BIBLE STUDY CRUISE
January 12 - 17, 2004

Enjoy a five night Christian cruise aboard Carnival Cruise Line's luxurious ocean liner, the ms HOLIDAY sailing from the port of New Orleans!

Enjoy daily bible sessions with eight of America's best known preachers: Adrian Rogers • Jerry Vines • Jim Henry • Gary Smalley • James Merritt • Jack Graham • Jimmy Hunt & David Dykes. Listen to the music of Squire Parsons • Legacy Five • Greater Vision • The Specks & Babbie Mason, just to name a few!

For additional information and to request a full-color brochure, call Ronnie today toll free at 1(888)391-7760

or e-mail him: ronnie@ronniecottingham.com
By the way, with Pastor Appreciation Month just around the corner, this would make a great gift!

The January Bible Study Cruise is sponsored by Templeton Tours and is a division of Jus' Jesus Ministries, Inc., Lucedale, MS
www.ronniecottingham.com



LARNELLE HARRIS
IN CONCERT

NORTH GREENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
Greenwood, MS

Saturday, October 4, 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$12.00 advance purchase, \$15.00 at the door

For ticket information contact the church office at 662-453-2801



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

Missions Mobilization

VOL. IV, NO. III

FALL 2003



PURPOSE:
TO PROVIDE AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR
VOLUNTEERS
TO USE THEIR SKILLS
TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST
THROUGH MISSION
PARTNERSHIPS.

Mississippi Baptists focus on Ontario, Canada

By Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB Missions Mobilization

On September 18-22, twenty-eight Mississippi Baptists journeyed to Toronto, Ontario, Canada catching a vision for the church planting movement in Greater Toronto. The group also met with the Ontario Baptist Association.

With Mississippians Clark and Valerie Rumpfelt serving in the Toronto area, it is a great opportunity for Mississippi churches to connect. Adaton Church, Starkville; First Church, Collinsville; and First Church, Amory, sent volunteers to the Rumpfelts this summer. First Church, Jackson sent a group of youth to participate in a "Power Plant" for a new church start in Cornwall, Ontario. Kelly Webb of Vaiden Church, Vaiden, served with the Emmanuel Church, Toronto as a summer worker. Two Mississippi College Baptist Student Union students worked with Shanliwood Church, Spencerville, Ontario as summer workers.

Volunteers participating in the vision trip to Toronto were: David Hatfield, Joseph and Angela Capps of First Church, Houston; Joe Cole of Benoit Church, Benoit; Mike Williams of Country Woods Church, Jackson; Norris and Mitzi Curry of New Zion Church, Crystal Springs; Daniel Hall and Charles Wallace of First Church, Crystal Springs; Jerry Fuqua and Jimmy Franks of Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch; Leroy and Sharon Brewer, Minta Vernon of First Church, Newton; Roy Sheriff and Dale Seal of Union Church, Picayune; Curtis Ferrell and Johnny Herndon of First Church, Holly Springs; Mark Sandifer, Royce Shipman, and Pat Nation of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; Gustavo Salazar - Hispanic church planter; Pat and Shirley Bufkin of Copiah Association, Hazlehurst; Ken Rhodes and Paul Harrell of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



Kelly Webb from Vaiden Church, Vaiden served for the summer in Toronto, Canada on a mission assignment facilitated by Missions Mobilization Department and Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering volunteer assistance. Kelly is shown getting the volleyball net ready for a Father's Day picnic at Emmanuel Church. (Photo provided by Kelly Webb)

Missions Mobilization Celebration

Celebration Banquet

November 14, 2003, 6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Jackson

Cost: \$10 per person

Area Conferences

November 15, 2003

Baptist Building, 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

For more information, please contact the MBCB Missions Mobilization Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, e-mail krhodes@mbcb.org, or phone 601-292-3398, or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 398.

Extended missions assignments available

By Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB Missions
Mobilization

Missions Mobilization offers exciting extended mission assignment opportunities both in North America and internationally. Those who are candidates for an assignment are associational missions directors, Baptist Student Union (BSU) directors and retired ministers from Mississippi churches.

Mississippians have served as interim pastors and interim directors of missions in the Northeast U.S., and Canada. Two BSU directors have served for an extended time in



Christy Carley (center), BSU Director at Mississippi College, leads children in singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" while on an extended international missions assignment in an unreached city. The Missions Mobilization Department offers a 10-12 week mission assignment to Associational Missions Directors, BSU directors, and retired ministers. (Photo provided by Christy Carley)

Southeast Asia on mission assignments provided by the Missions Mobilization Department.

Missions assignments must be at least 10 weeks or longer to qualify. We do have some opportunities in Southeast Asia at this time which would be for eight weeks.

As funds are available, missions mobilization works with lay persons in making possible volunteer missions experiences ranging from 10 weeks to one year. These are available to collegiates as well. This year these experiences have carried several Mississippians to the Northeast and to several countries.

There are numerous opportunities where the need is for more than just a week long project.

"The magnitude of the contribution made by Mississippi Baptist volunteers is beyond comprehension."

Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB
Missions Mobilization

On mission – God is at work

By Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB Missions Mobilization

Travel in 2003 has definitely presented its challenges to volunteers. Yet, Mississippi Baptists have shown patience, flexibility, and bravery in continuing to go around the world on mission for God.

This edition of the Missions Mobilization newsletter allows you to get a picture of what missions

experiences are like. You are invited to view the pictures and read the brief statements about the who, when, and what of these volunteers' experiences.

Perhaps you will see something which will encourage your participation as a volunteer in missions. These pictures are a small sampling of what hundreds of folks have experienced. The magnitude of the contribution made by Mississippi

Baptist volunteers is beyond comprehension.

It is that time of year when you should begin seeking where God wants you and your church engaged in 2004. It is not a matter of if He wants you engaged. He does!

God's assignment is that we will be Acts 1:8 churches. That is – on mission in our community, Mississippi, North America, and internationally.

Calhoun Association returns to Oregon

By Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB Missions Mobilization

Thirty-six Baptists from Calhoun Association, Calhoun City, constructed an education building for Creswell Church, Creswell, Oregon. The Calhoun group



James Harrell (above left) from Big Creek Church, Calhoun Association, operates the table saw. Others in foreground are from Creswell Church, Creswell, Oregon. In background are other members of Calhoun Association team at work. (Photo provided by Wayne Gullett)

had constructed a building five years ago for Creswell, which has grown from an attendance of around 75 people five years ago to 175 people presently. Creswell pastor Sam Morgan is from Mississippi and a former pastor in Calhoun Association.

Above right: Tilla Collier (left) from First Church, Calhoun City, and wife of Calhoun Association Missionary, and Laura Baker (right) from First Church, Calhoun City, are the Calhoun construction team. (Photo provided by Wayne Gullett)

Miss. Baptists assist IMB missionaries in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine

By Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB Missions Mobilization

Two Mississippi Baptist young ladies served 8 weeks in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine with International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries Mike and Linda Ray over the summer. Priscilla Pulliam, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton and Michelle Roark, First Church, Yazoo City were an excellent part of the mission team according to missionary Mike Ray and other volunteers who saw Priscilla and Michelle at work.

Priscilla and Michelle were assisted by the Missions Mobilization Department and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering volunteer assistance.



Michelle Roark (second from left) and Priscilla Pulliam (second from right) were members of what was labeled the "Fab Four of Daycamps". Michelle and Priscilla are shown with Dnipropetrovsk International Mission Board mission personnel Heather and Mariah.





Above: Letha Warren, D'Lo Church, Braxton and Letha Warren, D'Lo Church is on the right. (Photos provided by Farris Smith)

Above: Thomas Sullivan, Holly Grove Church, Braxton, is shown doing concrete finish work at the Vivian farm house on the Midwestern campus.

Above: David Warren (front), D'Lo Church, D'Lo, is shown outside the Vivian farm house on Midwestern's campus finishing concrete. In the background is Farris Smith, Simpson Association director, and in the middle is Tom Sullivan of Holly Grove Church, Braxton.

Mississippians share Christ in Romania

Below: Kerry Walters (right), a layman from Tuckers Crossing Church, Ellisville, shares Christ with a Romanian man through an interpreter.



Above: Eddie Bryant (center), pastor of Tuckers Crossing Church, Ellisville, shares the gospel with a Romanian man (left) through his Romanian interpreter (right). (All photos provided by Gary Bowlin)



Above: Helen Lyons (left) of First Church, Biloxi, triages a Romanian lady.



Ray Downey (left), a layman in Oakdale Church in Brandon, shares Christ with a group of Romanian women.

Adams-Union team wires church

By Dale Little, association missions director
Adams and Union Associations

The Adams-Union Association's electrical team did electrical work on the 576 seat sanctuary for Calvary Church, in Hannibal, Missouri. The team of men and ladies put in over three miles of wiring.



Left: Barbara and Calvin Young, Fayette Church, Union Association work together on Calvary Church, Hannibal, Mo. Calvin put off knee surgery for one month in order to serve with the team. (Photos provided by Dale Little)



Above: Sonya and Charles Stephens from First Church, Natchez, exhibit teamwork.



Left: Marie Little (left) from Prentiss Church, Jefferson Davis Association works alongside daughter-in-law, Dottie Little (right) Washington Church, Adams Association.



Sidney Little (left) from Prentiss Church, Jefferson Davis Association and Paul Allen (right) of First Church, Natchez, hard at work.

"The team of men and ladies put in over three miles of wiring."

Dale Little
associational missions director
Adams-Union associations



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

on any of the mission opportunities listed in this newsletter, please contact:

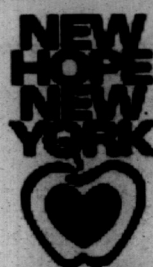
Ken Rhodes
P.O. Box 530
Jackson MS
39205-0530

Phone:
(800)748-1651
(in state)
(601)292-3398
(out of state)

E-mail:
krhodes@mbcb.org

**Mississippi Baptist
Missions Mobilization**
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produced by
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of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board.

Contact
Missions Mobilization
about future
mission opportunities.
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530
(800) 748-1651, ext. 398
(601) 292-3398
krhodes@mbcb.org



By Paul Harrell, consultant
MBCB Missions Mobilization

The Convention of New York is one of the five conventions that make up the Impact Northeast states. It is natural that Mississippi Baptists would respond to the strategic evangelistic focus on New York City during the years 2003-05. There are three things that we can do as a convention. We can pray, participate in evangelistic outreach ministries, and partner with their churches to reach unsaved people. The priority areas of ministry will include church planting, church strengthening, leadership development, collegiate ministries, and prayer. Every Mississippi Baptist church has expertise in one or more of these areas.

More than 20 million people live in the

metropolitan New York City area. Only one in 100 has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. With statistics like these, the thought of reaching this big city often seems overwhelming, but these conditions are actually what make greater New York such a rewarding place to share the gospel.

We invite you as an individual or your church to prayerfully consider forming a linkage with New York City. This can be done by taking a vision tour, selecting a mission project, or forming a linkage with one of their churches. The Missions Mobilization Department is ready to assist you in these endeavors. With God's help, you can make an eternal difference in the lives of many people in New York City.

For additional information on New Hope New York go to their web site at www.newhopenewyork.com.



Louis Smith, pastor of Black Jack Church, Yazoo Association leads children at the Wake-Eden Church, Bronx, New York in singing and storytelling. Louis and wife Gayle worked at Wake-Eden Church and the Bronx Church. The Smiths also worked with children at the Christian Academy. (Photo provided by Louis Smith)

Miss. collegiates minister in NE

By Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB Missions Mobilization

Three Mississippians are serving as collegiate ministers in the Northeast U.S. as a result of going on a spring break mission trip with their Baptist Student Union (BSU) groups to the Northeast. Each felt God's call to return to the Northeast and begin work with students.

Chris James, from Vicksburg and Brian Goza from Brookhaven are both serving on campuses in Boston, Mass. Kirk Strawbridge from Amory is serving on the University of Pittsburgh campus.

Each of these young men is a Mission Service Corps volunteer. Along with Mississippi Missions Mobilization, many other churches, individuals, and BSUs have partnered in giving support for their ministry.

Serving on a field of opportunity of such magnitude, Chris, Brian, and Kirk need the prayer support of churches and BSUs back home in Mississippi. God is doing a great work in and through these young men as they follow His directions.

God's call for Chris, Brian, and Kirk was to the Northeast. His call to Mississippi Baptists is to support in prayer.

Waits fulfills multiple ministries in Maryland

By Paul Harrell, consultant
MBCB Missions Mobilization

This year many volunteers served in the Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Some served for one week while others, like our summer collegiate students, served for two and a half months.

Here is the testimony of Jake Waits who attends Mississippi College. His home is Holcomb.

"This summer has most definitely been His summer. God is, has, and forever will be good but seeing His goodness this summer has especially been an exciting and humbling experience. I left May 12th in anticipation of a new battlefield to fight upon not knowing what lay ahead. As I arrived in Clarksville, Maryland for the summer, I knew that many battles were before me. Rolling Hills Baptist Church called me to serve as their youth and children's pastor for the summer. Little did I know that there was much more entailed in serving Christ in Maryland than I thought.

"I worked with an all-girl youth group and a varied age group of kids at the church. KFC (Kids for Christ) was a blessing that God started through me this summer on Wednesday nights for the kids. We led the kids in worship, games, crafts, and Bible lessons every Wednesday night.



Jake Waits (left), with a Filipino family from Hills Church in Clarksville, MD.

Developing those relationships with the kids was precious and rewarding this summer. I also



Jake Waits (third from right), with a group of Vacation Bible School children from Hills Church in Clarksville, MD. Four out of the eight children in his class made professions of faith during the week of VBS. (Photos provided by Jake Waits)

had opportunities to pass out literally thousands of brochures and flyers this summer promoting the church. Through this area of ministry, I came in contact with many Muslims, Jews and other religions that are dominant in that area.

"While I served in the church, I also had opportunities to help other churches in various parts of Maryland with mission work. Another humbling experience was seeing a prayer take root before my eyes and come to life. I had the privilege of starting a Family Ministry Team in the church and I am still amazed that God chose a 19 year old to begin this team. God has shown me through all of this that I can serve Him as a Jake-of-all-trades!

"As I look back on the experience from this summer, I look back with a sense of satisfaction because God chose to use me in so many different ways for His kingdom. When we fight for Christ wholeheartedly and stay the course, He will be at the forefront of the battle helping us take each step with sword in hand. Take courage knowing that God is in your midst, and fight valiantly for Him with passion."



JUST FOR THE RECORD



Mark Gray and Stephen Lanier

Bailey Smith Ministries presents the **Real Evangelism Bible Conference** at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, September 28-October 1. Larry Grays, Kennesaw, Ga., and Bailey Smith, Atlanta, Ga., will be speaking Sunday at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m. Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala., and Ergun Caner, Dallas, Texas, will speak on Monday at 6:30 p.m. Johnny Hunt, Woodstock, Ga., and Jerry Falwell, Lynchburg, Va., will speak Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Fred Wolfe, Brandon, and Jamey Ragle, Burlington, Ky., will speak Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Rick Stone, The Stone Family, Geraldine and Ricky, and Chris Allman Sunday

through Tuesday, and Eddie Middleton Monday through Tuesday. The Easthaven Church Choir will sing Monday through Wednesday and the Salem Heights Church Choir (Tenn.) will sing Tuesday. The host hotel is Hampton Inn and can be reached at (601) 823-3800. For more information, call (601) 833-2597. Bendon Ginn is the host pastor.

David Rogers was licensed to the ministry on August 10 at Poplar Creek Nations Church, Kilmichael. Pictured (from left) are Jim Ballard, Rogers, his wife Carla, and Rexie Nail.

Bethlehem Church, Forkville, recently ordained **Mark Gray** to



Dunk the deacons, Sardis Church, Sardis



Jim Ballard, David & Carla Rogers, and Rexie Nail

the ministry on June 29. Pictured (from left) are Gray and Stephen Lanier, pastor.

Alexander Memorial Church, Washington, recently ordained **Garion Tavenner** and **Tim Evans** as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Rick Griffin, pastor, Tavenner, Evans, and David Donham.

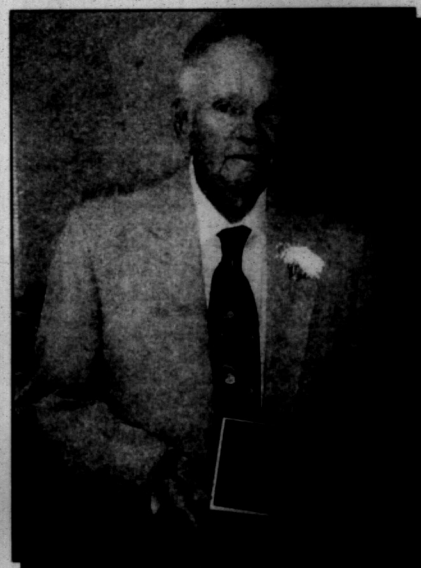
The children and youth of **Sardis Church, Philadelphia**, reached their goal for attendance during VBS. They were given the opportunity to dunk a deacon as an incentive. Pictured are deacons Joe Mike Step and Max Clearman.

Sons of the Father will be in concert at New Sight Church, Brookhaven, October 5 at 11

a.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (601) 833-2433.

The Children's Department of **Ingram Church, Baldwin**, will have a Noah's Ark party on October 31 at 7 p.m.

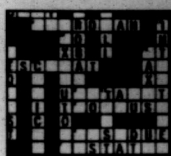
On July 27, **J. W. Cupit** was presented a plaque by Ben Presnell, pastor of Union Church, Union Church, for his service to the church and community. The occasion was Cupit's 88 birthday.



J.W. Cupit



Rick Griffin, pastor; Tevenner, Evans, and David Donham



Have You Your Estate Planning Puzzle?

DOES YOUR ESTATE PLAN:

- Include an up-to-date Will? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Name a guardian or create a protective trust for your parents, young or disadvantaged children, adult children, or grandchildren? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Control all of your property including pensions and life insurance? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Name an executor/executrix and trustee you are confident will carry out your wishes? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Include provisions for long-term health care for you and your spouse and/or dependents should the need arise? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Include charitable gifts? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Everyone who owns property - a home, a car, a bank account, investments, business interests, a retirement plan account, collectibles, personal belongings, etc. needs an estate plan! Anything that you own that can produce income or that can be converted into cash make up your estate. An estate plan allows you to direct how and to whom your property will be distributed after your death. *Is there a blank in your estate planning?*

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation was founded in 1943 to assist individuals and institutions in charitable giving and estate planning. Give us a call. Let us assist you by filling in your estate planning blanks by giving the Mississippi Baptist Foundation a call at (601) 292-3210.



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



JUST FOR THE RECORD



Jim Rickles and Les Rickles

Eighteen members of Bassfield Church, Bassfield, went to Auburn, Neb., July 11-18 on a mission trip. The team held VBS at Auburn Church in the mornings and led a Backyard Bible Club in the evenings in Otoe, Neb. There were four pro-

fessions of faith at VBS and five at the Backyard Bible Club. Ken Roberts is pastor.

Mt. Zion Church, Osyka, held their 165th anniversary on July 27. Donnie Bond, retired missionary and former member of Silver Springs Church, Osyka, of Shawnee, Okla., spoke. Dimple Conerly Bond, retired missionary and former member of Mt. Zion Church, of Shawnee, Okla., gave her testimony. Richard Fortenberry, Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, and former youth and music director at Mt. Zion, presented music. Maria Schilling directs music and Nathan M. Firmin is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Firmin and the Bonds.

Concord, Ellard, and Parker churches, Calhoun, recently joined together for VBS. The average attendance was 98. A



Mission trip participants of Bassfield Church, Bassfield mission offering went to the Baptist Children's Village.

Oakland Heights Church, Meridian, recently ordained Les Rickles, as deacon. Pictured (from left) are his father, Jim Rickles, pastor, and Rickles.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



Firmin and the Bonds



VBS participants of Concord, Ellard, and Parker Churches



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

First Baptist Church

150 D'Evereaux Drive • Natchez, MS
presents in concert



Saturday, November 8th at 7 p.m.
& Sunday, November 9th at 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$10

For more information call (601) 442-1464.

Highland Baptist Church

2513 North 7th Avenue • Laurel, MS 39440 • (601) 428-8493

2003 BIBLE CONFERENCE • OCTOBER 6 - 8

2003 Conference Speakers



Bill Britt



Jim McNeil



Jimmy Robertson



Herb Reavis



Jerry Spencer



Jerry Chaddick

2003 Conference Musicians

with the Highland Baptist Church Celebration Choir and Praise Band



The Stone's



Luke Garrett



The Hill Family

Schedule

October 6 - Evening service will begin with pre-music at 6:15 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. service.
October 7 & 8 - 9:30 a.m. service with lunch immediately following • 1:30 p.m. Breakout sessions • 2:45 p.m. Bible Study • Evening services will begin at 6:15 with pre-service music and 6:30 p.m. service • There is no conference charge.

www.highlandchurch.net

HEALING AND REVIVALS

Holly Springs, Foxworth: Oct. 12, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch and fellowship will follow; an afternoon sing will follow; Robert Sones, former pastor, speaking; Kevin Crozier, pastor.

New Goodhope, Pulaski: Oct. 12; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; a Gospel singing with Greater Faith will follow; Curtis Roland, speaking; John Purvis, pastor.

Tillatoba, Tillatoba: Sept. 28; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish meal will be served at noon; Mike Ramage, Parkway, Hernando, speaking.

Ingram, Baldwin: Oct. 12; Tommy Mitchell, Gulf Coast Associational Missions Director, preaching.

Ingram, Baldwin: Oct. 26-29; Marty Roberts, Wheeler, Wheeler, preaching; Mark Cartwright, singing.

First Glendale, Hattiesburg: Sept. 28-Oct. 1; Sunday, 10 a.m., potluck lunch at 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. breakfast and devotional, and 6:30 p.m.; Jimmy Stewart, East Campus of Temple, Hattiesburg, speaking; Jimmy Miller, First, Glendale, music; Don Stewart, interim pastor; Contact (601) 544-0414 or firstbaptistofgl@aol.com.

Old Oak Grove, Myrtle: Sept. 28; 130th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served at noon; singing, 1:15 p.m.; Landmarks, singing; Jason Marlin, former pastor, preaching; Gary Linville, pastor; for more information, call (662) 988-2187; all are welcome.

First, Mt. Pleasant: Oct. 12; 45th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will

be served at noon; afternoon singing with The Living Truth will follow; a love offering will be taken; Gerald Hodges, former pastor, speaking; Troy Styers, pastor; all are welcome.

Wildwood, Southaven; Wildwood-Havenview: Sept. 28; a potluck dinner on the grounds will be served at noon; concert with Matthew McGilliard, Gaither, 2 p.m.; Fred Tubbs, former pastor, preaching; Darrel W. Stacy, pastor.

Rocky Point, Leake: Sept. 28; worship, 10:45 a.m.; a covered dish will be served; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Danny Septon, Brandon, guest speaker; Living Waters, McCool, music; Marshall Lum, pastor.

Rocky Point, Leake: Sept. 29-Oct. 1; nightly, 7 p.m.; Danny Septon, Brandon, preaching; Choir, music.

Valley Grove, Pontotoc: Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a fellowship meal will follow; music, 1:30-3 p.m.; Tommy Tackett, preaching; John Shackelford, pastor.

Walker Hill, Brandon: Sept. 28; worship, 10 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon worship will follow; J. C. Renfro, former Director of Missions for Rankin County, speaking; all are welcome; for more information, call (601) 825-6210 or (601) 825-6965; Ronnie Purser, pastor; Sandi Sartor, music director.

Belden, Belden: Sept. 28; worship, 10 a.m.; a fellowship meal will follow; Scott Rogers, speaking.

Grace, Philadelphia: Sept. 28-Oct. 1; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaking; Chris Vowell, interim pastor.

STATE CHANGES

Iuka Church, Iuka, called Jim Holcomb as pastor effective May 2003.

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, called Ronnie Cooper as interim pastor on September 1. Cooper has pastored churches in Alabama and Mississippi. Rolling Creek Church also called Lamar Callahan as interim music director effective August 27 and Ann Callahan as interim organist.



Holcomb

John Lee, Baldwin, has been elected as interim pastor at Macedonia Church, Lee. He began his ministry on September 14.

New Hope Church, Foxworth, has called Timothy Parker as pastor. Parker graduated from Mississippi College and NOBTS. He served as pastor of Montgomery Church, Summit, prior to coming to New Hope. Parker's service began September 14.

COLLEGE NEWS

Bill Hudson Jr., Hudson Salvage Inc., will serve as keynote speaker at the annual Small Business Leadership Award luncheon Oct. 15 at noon in the Wilkes Dining Hall, William Carey College, Hattiesburg. It is sponsored by the Area Development Partnership and WCC. This

event recognizes the contributions all small business leaders make to the economic, social and cultural life of the community. Owners of small businesses and the general public are invited to attend. Call (601) 318-6199 for ticket information and reservations by October 8.

Mission Hill, Wesson: Oct. 5; 125 years; worship, 10 a.m.; a covered dish luncheon will follow; Van Windom, speaking; Tommy Purvis, pastor; all are welcome; for more information call (601) 823-3366 or (601) 643-2788.

Temple, Moss Point: Sept. 28-Oct. 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David

Sheppard, harvest evangelist, Laurel, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, One Way Ministries, Mathison, music; David Williams, pastor.

Bethel, Monticello: Sept. 28-Oct. 2; Sunday, 9 a.m.; nightly, 7 p.m.; Clark Stewart, Harmony, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Bill Herman, New Hebron Church, New Hebron, worship leader.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, announces the ministry Complete in Christ. Wayne and Tina Hudson were commissioned on August 17. They are available for seminars, conferences, retreats, and revivals. For more information, call (662) 289-4294. Pictured (from left) are Jerry East, pastor, the Hudsons, and Paul Harper.

Correction

Due to a layout error in the Housetops section of the September 18 issue of The Baptist Record, the cost of the Senior Adult IV Retreat at Gulfshore Assembly on September 30-October 2 was erroneously listed as \$97 per person, plus lodging. The cost of the retreat is \$97 per person, including lodging. For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 292-3373 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 373. E-mail: gshows@mbcb.org.

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH Insurance for the self employed. Call (662) 568-3482. *Underwritten by MEGA Life & Health Insurance Company. MCOMB0008.

FOR SALE: 1992 FORD SPORT, 15 passenger van. New tires, white, 82,000 miles. \$4,000, call (479) 925-1566, Roger, Arkansas.

LEARN CHALK ART MINISTRY BY video. For more information write: P.O. Box 1206, Fairfield, TX 75840. Email larsin@plash.com. **SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, MISS.** Christian owned home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal roofs, patio covers, screen/glass rooms. (601) 992-2092 or (800) 453-2994. Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

FIRST BAPTIST, MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY, is seeking full-time worship/music minister. Average attendance 500+. Blended worship style with Praise team. Position will give leadership to graded music program. 65 member praise choir team, and worship team, worship planning. Send resume to Bob Swift, pastor. First Baptist Church, 118 W.

South Street, Mayfield, KY 42066.

LEESVILLE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: Full-time youth and recreation minister. Send resumes with photo to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446; or email fbcleesville@wnonline.net.

AMERICA'S FASTEST GROWING Christian long distance company. 4.9/minute, no monthly fees. No codes or restrictions, 6 second billing. 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free (866) 587-8346 or www.covenant-phoneservice.com.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

CHURCH FEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

WANTED: FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE pastor of music and youth. All interested, send resumes to: Feliciana Baptist Church, P.O. Box 428, Clinton, LA 70722. Or call the church office at (225) 683-3066 or Pastor Tony Hand at (225) 938-4592.

PART-TIME YOUTH/CHILDREN'S Minister. Send resume to Antioch Baptist Church, 2350 Hwy 43 S., Brandon, MS 39042. Attn: youth minister search committee.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, is looking for a part-time associate minister to help meet the needs of this caring church with outreach programs and homebound ministry. For more information, contact Dr. Greg Wolfe, pastor, P.O. Box 13675, Jackson, MS 39236. Phone (601) 368-2983.

ORGANIST, CASTLEWOODS Baptist Church. Send a letter of interest or resume to 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047, via email or fax. Fax number (601) 992-2623.

For information call (601) 992-9977.

MOSELLE MEMORIAL BAPTIST Church is currently seeking a part-time minister of youth. If you feel God leading you in the direction of youth ministry and would like a great opportunity to work with a growing church, please send your resume to: MMBC minister of youth committee, P.O. Box 220, Moselle, MS 39459 or call (601) 582-9428.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SHANNON, is currently accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 21, Shannon, MS 38868, attn: Danny Simmons.

NORTHWEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IN

DeSoto and Tate counties is now taking applications and resumes for Association Missions Director. Send all information, including accurate references to Mr. Dan Freeman, 2604 Lavern Road, Nesbit, MS 38651.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS position. Send resumes to minister of students search committee, Grace Memorial Baptist Church, 2412 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501.

FBC MAGEE IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME minister of youth and activities director. Please send resumes to youth search committee, c/o Mike McAlpin, P.O. Box 266, Magee, MS 39111.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

STAND UP

Editor:

First of all, I would like to thank Lisa Parr of New Albany for those addresses of our congressional representatives (Write reps, senators; letter to the editor, September 11).

I am a Christian and I believe God's Holy Word is true. This said, I do not believe in gay rights. I do believe our children are being harmed by all the television and movies where they are being doused with this every day. We as Christians have to stand up for our children or soon it will be too late. By the time they have a steady diet of all the evilness of homosexuality, they will begin to think that we are the ones who are wrong.

Write your congressmen, senators, and legislators and let them know they will not get your vote if they don't move on these issues. They are ones in positions to do something.

We are living in a fast-paced world today. It seems evilness is all around. We have to do something or marriage between a man and a woman will be a thing of the past.

Inamay Kittrell
State Line

TOSS 'AUTHORITIES'

Editor:

Henry Blackaby's recent guest opinion (The role of authorities, September 4 issue) has, to put it

generously, more holes than Swiss cheese even if one restricts the context to the environs of a local Baptist church or, I might add, any church.

The Apostle Paul, a Roman citizen who utilized Roman law, Roman roads, and no doubt the Roman postal system, certainly had no sufficient reason to rebel against authorities who in many instances protected him. Paul's clearly-stated position on the matter is to honor authorities who, by their conduct toward those under them, deserve to be honored.

Any nation that encourages the overthrow of tyrannical "authorities" will never be condemned by my God or Paul's God. Ask John Hus, Martin Luther, Washington, Jefferson, Paine, and scores of other "rebellious" leaders who have passed on to all of us a better world by tossing worthless "authorities," religious and secular, out on their ears.

I might add that had the early Christians not rebelled against authority, Christianity might very well be a footnote in a volume on world history.

Charles Moulder
Hattiesburg

PROMOTE OFFERINGS

Editor:

I would like to suggest, if policy allows, that The Baptist Record promote to our Mississippi Baptist churches that

the people who attend Wednesday prayer meeting services give all the pocket change they bring to the services toward closing the gap that exists in the 2003 Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) between budget needs and gifts received. If all our Mississippi Baptist churches increase their CP giving one-half to two percent in the months of October, November, and December using this method, it well might result in the 2003 CP budget being met.

Also, if all Mississippi Baptists would give some amount for all 82 counties through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO) — 82 pennies, 82 nickels, 82 dimes, 82 dollars, etc. — this would meet the 2003 MLSMO goal of \$1.5 million. All family members could personally give to the offering.

I plan to promote these ideas to our churches in Clarke Association and ask our pastors to do to promote it as well. May we all give so that others will come to know Jesus and go with us to Heaven.

Grady Crowell, missions dir.
Clarke Association
Quitman

GOD, WORD DIVIDED?

Editor:

I'm troubled by something said by an Episcopal priest in defending that church's elevation of an avowed homosexual to the office of bishop. When

asked how they could dismiss Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures that call the homosexual lifestyle sin, this priest charged that the Bible was not culturally correct (my paraphrase of her statement).

She then said, "We worship the God of the Bible; we don't worship the Bible itself." I don't think there's one among us, Episcopal or Southern Baptist, who is sharp enough to divide God and His Word.

Although the Bible is replete with Scriptures that remind us that God alone is worthy of our worship and praise, consider Psalm 56:4 — "In God I will praise His Word, In God I have put my trust," and Psalm 56: 10 — "In God I will praise His Word; in the Lord I will praise His Word."

Certainly John 1 comes to mind. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, (v.2) the same was in the beginning with God, (v.3) all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. (v.14) And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us..."

There is salvation in no other name than Jesus. It is apparent that Jesus is the Living Word of God. He and His Word are one! The sharpest knife in the drawer can't make that cut.

Arthur Comans, pastor
Yandell Road Church
Madison

Analysis: Word of Faith crosses heresy line

By Justin Peters
Correspondent

First in a series

"Satan conquered Jesus on the cross." "He died spiritually! ...Jesus Christ understood that spiritual death is union with the satanic nature." "Man was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority." "He [God] doesn't even draw a distinction between Himself and us. ...I have His name. I'm one with Him...I am a little god! Critics, be gone!"

Shocked? You may have just read the above four quotes from four separate individuals and are wondering, "What blasphemy is this? Who teaches such heresy? Mormons? Jehovah's Witnesses?" You would be correct in discerning such statements as heretical but, unfortunately, incorrect in assuming that they come from groups considered outside of orthodox Christianity; they come from within.

More commonly known as the Health and Wealth, Name It and Claim It, or Prosperity gospel, the Word of Faith (WOF) movement comprises the majority — though not all — of what is seen on cable Christian television. WOF doctrine is beamed to hundreds of countries around the world via Christian networks such as TBN and Daystar, and preached in thousands of churches across the United States.

Much of WOF doctrine is in line with orthodox Christianity. However, the error is sufficient and egregious enough to persuade many, myself included, to conclude that the Health and Wealth gospel is indeed a different gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).

The WOF movement compromises the non-negotiable fundamentals of the faith. The origins of the WOF movement can be traced directly to the metaphysical cults such as Unity School of Christianity, Religious Science, Christian Science, and New Thought. Though the father of the modern WOF movement is often considered to be Kenneth Hagin (whose son can be seen preaching today on TBN), as he is referred to by Charisma magazine, this dubious honor actually goes to one Essek W. Kenyon (1867-1948), whose works were extensively plagiarized by Hagin.



Peters

Kenyon was heavily influenced by the metaphysical cults which flourished at Emerson College of Oratory where he attended. Kenyon, in turn, was influenced by Phineas P. Quimby (1802-1866), a student of occultism, hypnosis, and parapsychology and the father of New Thought. Knowing the roots of a theological movement or system is critical in understanding its teachings and practical implications.

What follows is a very brief listing of some of the doctrines of the WOF movement:

• **Positive confession** — The belief that what is spoken can be brought into literal existence. Believers may simply speak the things which they desire of God and He is obligated to give it to them; hence the label "Name It and Claim It" gospel. If this sounds eerily like God's act of creation in Gen. 1 and 2, it is.

• **Little gods doctrine** — The belief that man was created to be an exact duplicate of God. Believers, then, are little gods on the earth.

• **Spiritual death of Jesus** — The belief that Christ's physical death was insufficient to atone for sin. He also had to die spiritually. Of course, if Jesus died spiritually, then He ceased being God and if He ceased being God even for an instant, He never was God to begin with.

• **Revelation knowledge** — The belief that God dispenses to certain believers, apart from the Scriptures, secret knowledge of Himself. This is a modern day version of the ancient heresy of Gnosticism against which the New Testament repeatedly warns.

• **Health and wealth** — The belief that all believers have the right to walk in perfect, divine health and prosper financially. This stems from the erroneous view that sickness was paid for by Christ's spiritual atonement in hell and that prosperity is a cosmic law ordained by God respectively.

Heresy is never promoted in a manner which exposes its darkness for all to see. Rather, its poison is wrapped in familiar Christian language to make it more palatable. The WOF movement has craftily packaged its counterfeit gospel to look like the real thing. It is making alarming inroads into all Christian churches, including Southern Baptist churches. Many honest, sincere, born-again Christians are being deceived and hurt.

Peters is interim minister of education at First Church, Vicksburg. He holds a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in Biblical Languages and a Master of Theology (Th.M.) from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. Peters can be contacted at (601) 636-2493 or by e-mail: jpeters@fbcvicksburg.org.

Next week: A look at one of the movement's most visible leaders, healing evangelist Benny Hinn.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Kingdom Evidence

Matthew 7:13-27

By Jon Daniels

An evangelism training method utilizes two diagnostic questions. One of these, "Do you know for sure that you are going to be with God in heaven?" is designed to get the lost person to begin pondering their eternity. There are also many Christians who regularly ponder their eternity.

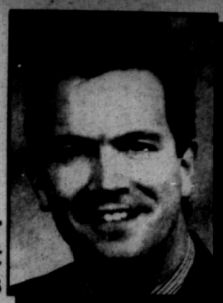
"How can I know that I am in God's Kingdom?" When I was in student ministry, this question was regularly asked in some form by many teenagers as they searched their hearts for the assurance of their salvation. Now as a pastor, this question comes to me from people of all ages — from children to senior adults.

The Scriptures tell us to test and examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5-6). This is one test that we must not

fail! As we look at our focal passage, let's craft some "test questions" as we look for evidence that we are in God's Kingdom.

HAVE YOU ENTERED THE RIGHT GATE? (vv. 13-14)

The gate that leads to life in the Kingdom of God is narrow because, as Charles Spurgeon said, "It demands self-denial, and calls for strictness of obedience, and watchfulness of spirit" (The King Has Come, p. 81). This does not mean that it is hard to become a Christian, but it does mean that there is only one Way to eternal life with God, and His name is Jesus (John 14:6). The way of salvation is a way of decision, commitment, and obedience to God. At times, it can be a difficult road (v. 14) that we walk as we encounter the attacks of our enemy who seeks to distract, disturb, and derail us as we strive



Daniels

and walk the difficult road, we are headed toward life eternal that is promised to those who are in God's Kingdom.

WHO ARE YOU LISTENING TO? (vv. 15-20)

Not everyone who claims to belong to God and to speak for Him actually does so. Our world is full of false prophets who propagate errant and misleading messages. They are extremely deceitful and dangerous, like "ravaging wolves." If we will pay close attention to the fruit they are bearing — their character, their creed, and their converts (MacArthur, p. 468) — we will be able to determine who is a false prophet and who is not. We will be able to determine to whom we need to listen.

to live for Jesus. John MacArthur said, "The way to life is on God's terms alone; the way to damnation is on any terms a person wants, because every way but God's leads to the same fate" (Matthew 1-7, p. 449). The good news for us is that when we enter through the narrow gate

A fruit tree may be beautiful, decorative, and offer pleasant shade from the summer heat, but the primary purpose of a fruit tree is to produce fruit. It is judged by what it produces, not how it looks.

A prophet — someone who speaks for God — is judged by his life, not simply by his appearance or his words. Let's make sure that we are listening to those whose lives are genuine, whose "fruit" is good. They will be most helpful to us as we look for evidence that we are in God's Kingdom.

ARE YOU OBEYING GOD'S WILL? (vv. 21-23)

These verses are some of the most sobering, thought-provoking in the New Testament. Entrance into the Kingdom of God is reserved for those who do the will of the Father. Mere lip service to Him is not enough; an obedient heart is required.

To think that there will be those who will be surprised "on that day" to discover that they will not be admitted into heaven leads us to evaluate our lives. Respectable activities such as church attendance, ministry to

others, fair treatment of our fellow man, and other such actions will not secure our place in heaven. Only when we do the will of the Father, surrender our lives completely to Him, recognizing our utter dependence on Him, will we be sure of our eternal life. **WHAT IS YOUR FOUNDATION? (vv. 24-27)**

Our church will begin construction of a Family Life Center soon, but before the first brick is ever laid, careful attention must be given to the foundation. Soil samples will be taken to ensure that the foundation will be able to support the building for years to come. The foundation is critical to the usefulness of the building.

In the same way, we must make sure that the foundation of our lives is strong and secure. The only foundation that will last for all eternity is that of the words of Christ and our obedience to them. "Practicing obedience becomes the solid foundation to weather the storms of life" (Study note, Life Application Bible, p. 1784).

Daniels is pastor of Monticello Church, Monticello.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Christian Behavior

Philippians 2:12-30

By Laura Russell

Living for Jesus a life that is true; Striving to please Him in all that I do; Yielding allegiance, glad hearted and free; This is the pathway of blessing for me.

The words to this old hymn could have been just what Paul was trying to tell the Philippian believers in the last part of chapter two. He was telling them how important it was that they live for Christ, especially with him not there. He wanted them to know that a commitment to Christ would be evidenced in their behavior. Just as Paul expected certain behavior from the Philippian believers, God expects us to demonstrate our commitment to Christ by how we live.

LIVE UP TO YOUR SALVATION (vv. 12-13). "Work out your sal-

vation" simply means to "take your faith seriously". The Philippian Christians needed to be especially careful to obey Christ, now that Paul wasn't there to continually remind them about what was right. "Work out your salvation" also means that God is working in you. This encourages us to do our utmost because we know our labor is not in vain: We must still depend on the grace of God. God's good will to us is the cause of His good work in us. We demonstrate our commitment to Jesus through faithfulness in living the Christian life. The secret to living this life is to submit to Christ's control and let Him work through you.

LIVE AS GOD'S CHILDREN (vv. 14-18). Living as God's children meant that the Philippians should not complain or argue.



Russell

They were to do their duty without murmurings. To do it and not find fault with it. To mind their work and not quarrel with it. To be peaceable. To move toward being blameless and pure. Why is this important? If all that people know about a church is that its members constantly argue, complain, and gossip, they get a false impression of Christ and the Gospel. The children of God should differ from the sons of men. Our lives should be characterized by moral purity, patience, and peacefulness so that we will "shine like stars" in a crooked and perverse world. A transformed life is an effective witness to the power of God's Word. Are you shining brightly or is your life clouded by complaints and arguing?

PUT CHRIST'S INTERESTS FIRST (vv. 19-24). Paul observed that most believers are too preoccupied with their own needs to spend time working for Christ. He reminded the Philippians of

the ministry of Timothy, which is in stark contrast to those who thought of themselves first. Timothy had a genuine concern for others. He seemed to be one of those rare people who could look beyond himself and see others — really see them. Timothy modeled what Paul wrote earlier in this letter: *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves... also look to the interests of others (2:3-4).* Timothy conformed to the Jesus model of leadership: Whoever wants to become great, must be a servant, and whoever wants to be first must be a slave of all (Mark 10:43-44). Timothy, like Paul, was a servant of all. When Christians seek their church's welfare rather than their own, they are putting Christ's interests first and so demonstrate their commitment to Him.

SERVE WITH DEDICATION (vv. 25-30). Paul indicates, in these verses, that we should honor those who give their lives for the sake of Christ. He specifically named Epaphroditus,

who had delivered money from the Philippians to Paul and then returned to Philippi with the letter from Paul. While he was staying with Paul, Epaphroditus became deathly ill and homesick for his family and friends. He was anxious to return home so that he could prove to them he was all right, that God had healed him. Paul wanted the Philippians to know the dedication with which Epaphroditus served, even to the point of dying. We show our commitment to Jesus when we are so dedicated to Him, that we are willing to put our lives at risk.

Just as a lighthouse warns sailors to avoid rocks and directs their course, the consistent examples of Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus, and present day believers will enlighten others and direct their way to Christ and to holy living. Do the words of the hymn at the beginning of this article characterize your walk with the Lord? Is your life modeling true Christ-like behavior?

Russell is member of First Church, McComb.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News items for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) prepared on standard sized paper for the newspaper. Articles should be typed on one side of the paper, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

Photographs should be submitted in color or black and white, and should be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

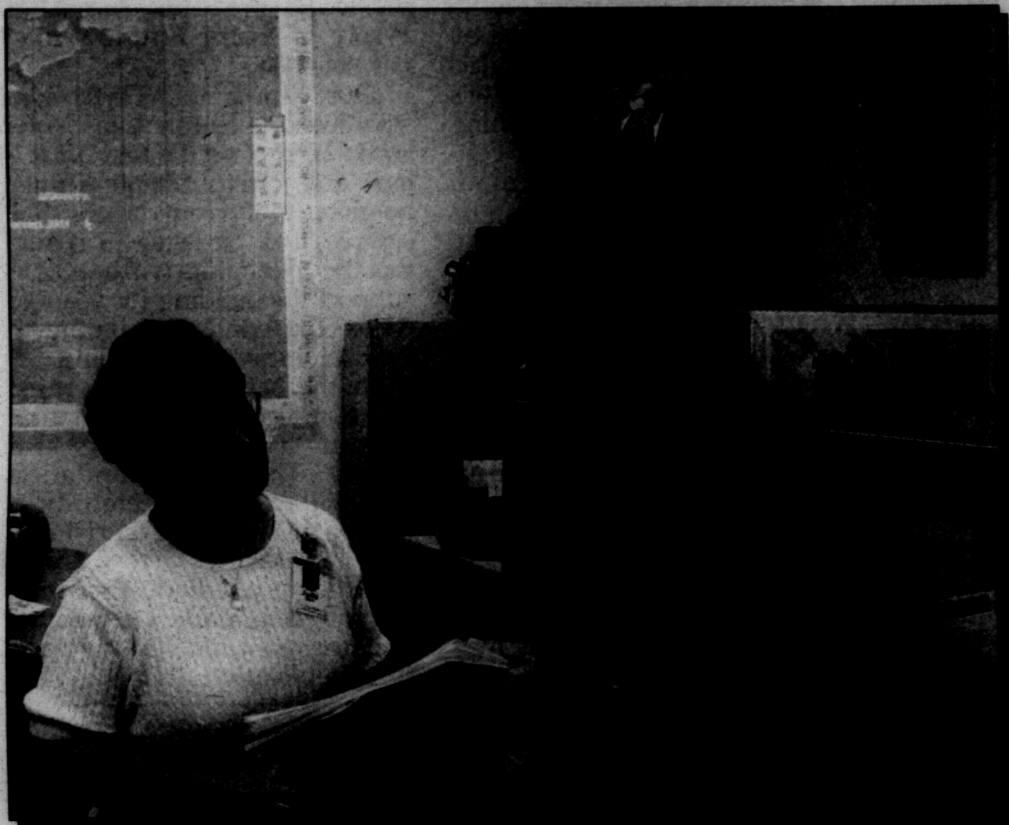
All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

News items and photographs should be submitted to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 1000, McComb, MS 39301.

Disaster vols heading to areas hit by Isabel

JACKSON, MS. (BP and local reports) — The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit was activated September 21 and dispatched to two areas of the eastern U.S. that suffered the brunt of Hurricane Isabel's fury last week, according to Carol Wright, administra-



READY TO GO — Terry Henderson (right), national director for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, and Judy Dew, a secretary in the North American Mission Board's volunteer mobilization action center, discuss plans for the upcoming deployment of Disaster relief volunteers in areas slammed by Hurricane Isabel. (BP photo by James Dotson)

tive assistant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

Wright said one team of eight Mississippi Baptist volunteers headed for the Maryland/Delaware area at about 5 p.m. on September 21, to assist in post-hurricane recovery operations. Baltimore and other areas of the Maryland/Delaware region were inundated with massive flooding, and many electric customers are still waiting for power to be restored.

The disaster relief unit's eighteen-wheeler mass feeding kitchen left its berth at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko at about 4 a.m. on September 22, with eight more volun-

teers bound for the Richmond, Va., area, Wright said. The feeding kitchen is capable of producing thousands of hot meals per day for disaster victims and relief workers.

The disaster relief unit and the mass feeding kitchen were last activated after a large tornado tore through downtown Brandon on April 25. There was no early word on when the unit will return from this latest activation.

Meanwhile, members of the North Carolina Disaster Relief Region 7 mobile kitchen unit waited at the offices of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Sept. 18 as Isabel raged outside, after traveling from the northwestern part of the state earlier in the day.

They joined other Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units in staging close to the affected areas so they could set up that much faster when the weather cleared.

"We're sort of the first wave of Christ's arms reaching out to people," said Skip Greene, a member of First Church of Boone, N.C., and leader of the unit. "We're there to help them primarily by giving them a hot meal, to help them through this initial shock of what's happening in their lives, and behind us come people that actually help put a roof on their house, or get the mud out."

Also staging at the convention offices overnight was the state's Region 9 mobile kitchen unit from the Asheville area, along with two cleanup and recovery teams. The units left early Sept. 19 to another staging area at Williamston, N.C., where they would find out their final destination.

Greene said the kitchen units usually go in and immediately start setting up to prepare thousands of meals daily for disaster victims. "I anticipate tomorrow we'll probably go out and set up a serving line and serve people right in front of us," he said, noting that most of the food often is prepared in bulk for distribution by the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. "Initially a lot of the time people come to us when they find out what we're doing," he said.

The routine at the staging area was more relaxed than they would likely face after deployment, but much of what makes their

work so effective is the advance planning, with assignments for setup, cooking, cleaning, serving and other roles.

Many have been doing this sort of thing for many years. Robert Stroup, a member of First Church of Spruce Pine, N.C., said he first became involved after responding to Hurricane Hugo in 1989. He since has been a regular, serving in South Florida after Hurricane Andrew and for more disaster areas than he can count since.

"It's like drinking Coca-Cola: You drink it one time and you're hooked on it," he said. "I just enjoy loving people, trying to help people." He described victims of Hurricane Andrew forming long lines early in the morning in a devastated area just for a hot breakfast. "All those people wanted was somebody to love them, because they didn't have anything else," he said. "I didn't have anything I could give them. I couldn't give them a shirt. I couldn't give them a couch but I could love them, and that's the first and greatest commandment."

Pearl Setzer of Granite Falls, a member of Friendship Church in Hudson, said she first became a Disaster Relief volunteer in 1990. As she prepared a devotional that she was scheduled to share with her group on Saturday, she pointed out that every member of the team is trained to do every job.

For Charlie Fox — who was just appointed head dishwasher for the deployment — involvement in Disaster Relief was an extension of his love for other kinds of volunteer missions, a passion he shares with others in the unit. It is a commitment that led him to change careers in the late '80s to become an insurance agent — just so he would have the flexibility to participate in missions projects.

"I hate to say that you have a good time when you go out for a disaster, but the fellowship is really good," he said. "It's very fulfilling. You feel like you're doing something worthwhile."

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is funded by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, and supported administratively by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

'Community loves So. Baptists' assisting recovery

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Though flooding, power outages, and wind damage have emerged as obstacles after Hurricane Isabel swept the East Coast Sept. 18-19, a major antidote to those obstacles has been people helping each other cope with the disaster.

"It's really amazing to see the disaster relief process happen where folks will leave their homes — and in our situation while the hurricane was still going on here — and work to help feed the folks in the shelter," Bruce Revel of the Eastern Baptist Association in Salisbury, Md., told Baptist Press. "We had several people who were in the shelter who were not Baptists, but they offered to help and we were able to make use of them as well."

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit was activated September 21 by national disaster relief officials at the North American Mission Board in Atlanta. One team of eight Mississippi Baptist volunteers left at about 5 p.m. on September 21 for the Maryland/Delaware

area, while another team of eight volunteers left at 4 a.m. on September 22 with the unit's eighteen-wheeler mass feeding kitchen bound for the Richmond, Va., area.

In Gloucester, Va., 309 people were able to take showers Sept. 21 in a Southern Baptist shower unit at a Wal-Mart parking lot. "It meets a real need, and we were really glad to do it," Jack Noble, head of disaster relief for the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, said.

Noble commended a disaster relief feeding unit from Georgia for the way they distributed meals in Gloucester. "The community loves Southern Baptists," he told Baptist Press.

He also noted the way churches in the area were working together to help church members remove water and mud from their homes and clear away downed trees.

Noble had visited 12 churches by mid-morning Sept. 22 and said that Union Church in Gloucester had a flooded basement, although most churches

fared the storm well and were left with only minor damage.

"What I've seen is people helping each other," Noble said. "Just as each person cleans up their own lot, they help each other clean up their lot too."

In Salisbury, Md., Revel noted that the area "got off pretty light" and did not receive the amount of damage some had predicted. But for those who were displaced, the Eastern Baptist Association activated a North American Mission Board-certified feeding unit at a local shelter. Revel reported that about 400 meals were served for dinner and breakfast Sept. 18 and 19.

"The Gospel was really at work," he said. "We shared with them why we were there, and it was great to see." The feeding unit has now been requested in Baltimore.

In North Carolina, where some of the worst damage occurred, David Phelps of the Atlantic Baptist Association in Havelock explained that the eye of the hurricane moved through his association at high tide.

"People had to go up into their attics and even to their rooftops to escape the flood," he told Baptist Press.

Phelps reported mostly water damage to homes and churches in the area and said the North Carolina Baptist Men have taken the lead in assessing damage and helping the needy. A large part of the work includes ripping carpet from flooded churches and spraying a Clorox solution as soon as possible to prevent mold.

He also noted that the North Carolina Baptist Men's feeding units were working with the Red Cross to supply food to people affected by the storm. The process of recovery is slow, he said, but it's happening.

At least 35 deaths are being blamed on Hurricane Isabel.

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CEA BLHV YCWVPB ELP

CMBCYVA; UVKCQMV

PBV DLZV LJ RLA NM

MBVA CUFLCA NE LQF

BVCFPM UT PBV BLDT

RBLMP IBNKB NM

RNZVE QEPL QM

FLYCEM JNZV: JNZV

Clue: R = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 4:24